



Public Service Building

255 Capitol Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97310

Phone (503) 378-8648

Fax (503) 378-3365

[www.odccwd.state.or.us](http://www.odccwd.state.or.us)

March 23, 2005

Richard Trigg  
Regional Administrator  
US Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
77 Stevenson Street, Suite 830  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2920

RECEIVED  
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SEATTLE

Dear Mr. Trigg,

Oregon requested and received a waiver of CFR 665.320(d)(2), for funds reserved for allowable state activities under WIA Sec. 133 (a)(2), up to 50 percent of the state set-aside Rapid Response funds to be used for the purposes of funds reserved under WIA Sec. 128 (a)(2). The purpose of the waiver was to eliminate the barriers created when using two types of funding with different allowable uses to develop projects with business. These barriers include limitations on the numbers to be trained, the difficulty of tying the rapid response funding to training projects, the administrative difficulties of separately tracking the two funding sources and their allowable uses, and the difficulties of making the complexities of the funding transparent to business.

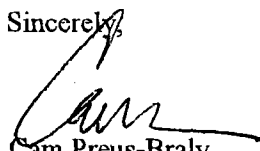
Because the waiver could only be granted for the life of the state plan, the waiver will expire as of June 30, 2005. This letter officially requests an extension of the waiver for the life of the first two years of the new five-year plan, or until June 30, 2007.

We understand that new waivers and extensions of existing waivers may be requested in the submission of the new state plans. That had been our original intent, that we would request an extension at that time. However, the Local Workforce Investment Boards and the local workforce response teams are presently developing projects and contractually obligating funds for projects that will extend beyond June 30 of this year. Many are reluctant to write contracts under the waiver due to uncertainty of having the waiver extended. If we waited until the plan was approved, we would not be able to assure the local partners of extending the waiver until the new program year begins. It is therefore imperative to request the waiver extension now, and to have it approved as soon as possible.

As before, Oregon will continue to carry out all required state level activities; the transfer would be for allowable activities only. The transfer will not diminish the ability of the state or local areas to respond to worker dislocations, nor will it affect local formula allocations for carrying out WIA Title IB adult, youth, and dislocated worker activities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please don't hesitate to call if you need additional information to process this waiver request.

Sincerely,

  
Cam Preus-Braly  
Commissioner

C: Betty Lock

